

Serial No. 09/526,091

REMARKS

The Applicant and the undersigned thank Examiner Lee for his careful review of this application. Consideration of the present application is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments to the application and in view of the following remarks. The Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 10, 12, 24 and 25. Claims 7-9, 11, 13-23, and 26-40 have been rejected. Upon entry of this amendment, Claims 7-8, 11, 13-23, and 25-44 are pending in this application.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

The Examiner has rejected independent Claims 7 and 23, as well as dependent Claims 8, 14, 15, 21-23, and 26, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,974,207 to *Aksyuk et al.* The Examiner has alleged that the *Aksyuk et al.* patent describes each and every element of the aforementioned claims. In addition, the Examiner has rejected dependent Claims 9, 11, 13, 16-20, and 27-40 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious in view of the teachings of the *Aksyuk et al.* These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Since the subject matter of allowable dependent Claims 10 and 24 have been incorporated into their respective independent claims, namely Claim 7 and Claim 23, and since additional independent Claim 41 comprises the subject matter of previous Claims 7 and 12, the Examiner's rejections have been rendered moot. Therefore, the present application is now in condition for allowance. An early notice of allowance is hereby earnestly solicited.

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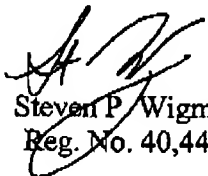
Conclusion

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action mailed on October 24, 2001. The Applicant and the undersigned thank Examiner Lee for his consideration of these remarks. The Applicant has amended the claims and have submitted remarks to traverse the rejections of Claims 7-9, 11, 13-23, and 26-40. The Applicant has cancelled Claims 9, 10, 12, and 24 and incorporated the subject matter contained therein into their respective independent claims or added corresponding independent claims with the allowable subject matter.

Upon entry of this amendment Claims 7-8, 11, 13-23, and 25-44 remain pending in this application. The Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Such Action is hereby courteously solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there are any issues that can be resolved by telephone conference, or that there are any formalities that can be corrected by an Examiner's Amendment, please contact the undersigned in the Atlanta Metropolitan Area at (404) 572-2884.

Respectfully submitted,



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7. (Once Amended) A cross-connect waveguide system comprising:
a planar lightguide circuit having one or more optical paths;
a plurality of optical waveguides coupled to said planar lightguide circuit;
a plurality of filtering devices for feeding light energy into said optical paths of said planar lightguide circuit or receiving light energy from said optical paths of said planar lightguide circuit; and

a diverting element for feeding first light energy at a predetermined wavelength having first information content away from said planar lightguide circuit, and for feeding second light energy at said predetermined wavelength having second information content into said planar lightguide circuit, wherein said diverting element is remotely configurable and is controlled with optically encoded information.

11. (Once Amended) The cross-connect waveguide system of claim [9] 7, wherein said diverting element is controlled by a dedicated control signal of light energy.

13. (Once Amended) The cross-connect waveguide system of claim [9] 7, wherein said diverting element is controlled by sampling the first light energy.

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23. (Once Amended) A method for adding and dropping light energy with multiple information contents comprising the steps of:

feeding multiplexed light energy into a planar lightguide circuit;

demultiplexing the light energy by dropping first light energy at a predetermined wavelength having first information content from said planar lightguide circuit;
[and]

generating control signals by encoding control information within an optical signal to activate a diverting element to feed the first light energy away from said planar lightguide circuit while feeding second light energy at said predetermined wavelength having second information content into said planar lightguide circuit for multiplexing with light energy in said planar lightguide circuit; and

generating control signals by encoding control information within an optical signal to de-activate said diverting element to feed the first light energy into said planar lightguide circuit for multiplexing with light energy in said planar lightguide circuit.